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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

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TAGS: ASEC, HOPS, PINS, PINT, PINR, SOPH, MILP, US, AF

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SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT, OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 1, 1982

REF: KABUL 1721

1. (C.-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE USED IN BRIEFING THE PRESS, PROTECTING SOURCES WHERE INDICATED.

3. SUMMARY. RESISTANCE ACTIVITY IN AND AROUND KABUL CONTINUED AT A HIGH LEVEL DURING THE LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER DESPITE RIGOROUS HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES IN VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE CAPITAL AND A TWO-DAY RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY. THE WEEK WAS MARKED BY ANOTHER BOMBING IN SHAR NAU, SEVERAL ASSASSINATIONS, AND FIREFIGHTS IN AND AROUND THE CAPITAL.

4. DURING OCTOBER THE REGIME FACED TWO DEMONSTRATIONS IN KABUL. MEN FROM PAKTIA CONVENED A THREE-DAY "JIRGAH" (COUNCIL) AT THE JESHYN GROUNDS ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO TO PROTEST THE REGIME DECISION TO DRAFT MEN FROM THAT STRATEGIC SOUTHERN PROVINCE. THE REGIME SURROUNDED THE CONCLAVE WITH SOLDIERS AND TOLD THE ASSEMBLY TO DISPERSE, BUT ON THE THIRD DAY ANNOUNCED THAT THE CONSCRIPTION DECISION HAD BEEN "TEMPORARILY" RESCINDED. A SECOND UNAUTHORIZED ASSEMBLY TOOK PLACE ON OCTOBER 19 WHEN SEVERAL HUNDRED REGIME FACTORY WORKERS MARCHED TO PROTEST THE SOVIET PRESENCE. THE WORKERS WERE INTERCEPTED AND DISPERSED PEACEFULLY. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT IN BOTH CASES THE REGIME TEMPORIZED RATHER THAN USE FORCE, LEADING TO THE LOGICAL CONCLUSIONS THAT THE REGIME STILL FEARS ITS OPPOSITION AND THAT ITS GRIP ON THE CITY MAY NOT BE TIGHTENING AS FAST AS SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE.

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5. WHILE SELECTIVE BOMBING OF VILLAGES CONTINUES IN AND AROUND THE TOWN OF PAGHMAN AND IN THE NEARBY SHOMALI AREA, REGIME-INITIATED MILITARY ACTIVITY IS WELL BELOW EARLY OCTOBER LEVELS. ACCORDING TO RECENT VISITORS TO THE PANJSHER VALLEY (PROTECT), VILLAGES ALONG THE MAIN ROAD IN THE LOWER VALLEY HAVE BEEN DAMAGED, BUT NOT FLATTENED AS WERE MOST OF THE VILLAGES IN THE SIDE VALLEYS AND NORTH OF ROKHA. REGIME FORCES REMAIN AT ANAWA AND ROKHA AND CONTROL SEVERAL OF THE MAIN PASSES INTO THE VALLEY. THE MAJOR ROUTE OPEN TO THE RESISTANCE FOR FOOD AND

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SUPPLIES IS THROUGH THE ANDARAB VALLEY. END SUMMARY.

6. KABUL ATMOSPHERICS.

DESPITE CONTINUING HOUSE TO HOUSE SEARCHES IN VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE CITY AND A TWO-DAY HOLIDAY TO OBSERVE THE TENTH OF MOHARRAM, RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN AND AROUND KABUL CONTINUED AT A HIGH LEVEL DURING THE LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER, AND THE NUMBER OF EXCHANGES OF FIRE REPORTED WERE UNUSUALLY HIGH. AT 1830 ON OCTOBER 25, THIRTY-SIX HOURS AFTER THE PAHIR BUILDING BOMBING, WINDOWS IN THE NORTHERN SECTION OF THE TOWN REVERBERATED WITH THE SOUND OF ANOTHER EXPLOSION. APPARENTLY A BOMB HAD GONE OFF IN A PARTY OFFICE IN SHARE NAU RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD. THE AREA WAS IMMEDIATELY CORDONED OFF BY AFGHAN SECURITY TROOPS. IN MID-WEEK, A PARCHAMI GIRL IN THE TENTH GRADE AT THE AISHA DURANI HIGH SCHOOL WAS SHOT AND KILLED NEAR HER HOME, PRESUMABLY BY MUJAHIDEEN. ALSO, AT 1900 ON OCTOBER 29 AN AFGHAN OFFICER WAS ASSASSINATED NEAR KOTE SANGI.

7. AS USUAL, THE WAR WAS NOT FAR FROM THE KABUL CITY LIMITS, ALTHOUGH THE MOST OBVIOUS MANIFESTATION OF THIS FACT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN A BATTLE. FOR OVER FIVE HOURS ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 28-29, ARTILLERY BOOMED AT REGULAR INTERVALS FROM BEHIND THE AIRPORT, SIGNAL FLARES LIT THE SKY, AND IN AN ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED ACTION, UNLIT HELICOPTERS CIRCLED THE CITY. EYE WITNESSES TO THE PROCEEDINGS NOTED THAT, UNLIKE OTHER RECENT BATTLES NEAR THE AIRPORT, THERE SEEMED TO BE NO FIRE ANSWERING THE ARTILLERY

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BURSTS, AND THE CONCLUSION REACHED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES WAS THAT THE REGIME WAS TREATING THE POPULATION TO RINGSIDE SEATS AT A TRAINING EXERCISE RATHER THAN A CLASH WITH THE MUJAHIDEEN.

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POWADS; PARIS ALSO FOR  
USDAO; DEPT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB - MRS. OAKLEY

B. OTHER ENGAGEMENTS WERE FOR REAL. RESISTANCE FORCES ATTACKED.  
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A MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATION ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE  
CITY ON OCTOBER 26 EXPENDING MORE THAN A DOZEN ROCKETS, AND ON

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THE 29TH THERE WAS A PROLONGED EXCHANGE OF HEAVY MACHINE GUN FIRE IN KHAIR KHANA WHICH EXPERIENCES DUSK TO MIDNIGHT, EXCHANGES OF FIRE ABOUT FOUR DAYS A WEEK. QALA-I-MUSA, ON THE AIRPORT SIDE OF QIDIHARU HILL EXPERIENCED A HEAVY EXCHANGE OF FIRE ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 30/31 AND A SMALL MILITARY POST NEAR THE MARTYRS CEMETERY WAS OVERRUN THE SAME NIGHT. ON THE SAME NIGHT THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE OF ROCKETS AND HEAVY MACHINE GUN FIRE NEAR DASHT-E-BARCHI ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE CAPITAL. FINALLY, THERE WERE BURSTS OF FIRING HEARD IN FRONT OF THE LIBYAN EMBASSY ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 31/NOVEMBER 1, THOUGH THIS MAY HAVE BEEN ROUNDS SHOT IN THE AIR BY SOLDIERS GUARDING THE EMBASSY WHEN A VEHICLE APPROACHED TOO CLOSELY TO THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU.

9. SECURITY. HOUSE TO HOUSE SEARCHES CONTINUED DURING THE WEEK, PRIMARILY IN KARTE PARWAN, KARTE HAMURIN (NEAR THE INTERCON HOTEL), AND WAZIRABAD IN THE NORTHEAST PART OF TOWN, AND KOTE SANGI TO THE WEST. TROOPS WHO SEARCHED THE HOUSES WERE INTERESTED IN WEAPONS AND POTENTIAL MILITARY CONSCRIPTS. KHAD FUNCTIONARIES WHO ACCOMPANIED THE SOLDIERS CHECKED IDENTIFICATION PAPERS AGAINST THEIR OWN LISTS.

10. IN ADDITION TO THE HOUSE TO HOUSE SEARCHES, ROADBLOCKS WERE SET UP IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CAPITAL TO CATCH POTENTIAL RECRUITS. THE INCREASED ENERGY DEVOTED TO FERRETING OUT POTENTIAL CONSCRIPTS IN THE LAST THREE WEEKS MAY BE RELATED TO THE IMPENDING RELEASE OF SOLDIERS WHO HAVE SERVED THREE YEARS. THERE ARE RUMORS IN THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY THAT ENTRANCE EXAMS WILL BE MOVED UP A MONTH TO EARLY NOVEMBER SO THAT THE MILITARY CAN SEIZE THOSE WHO FAIL TO MAKE THE GRADE.

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11. DRAFTING OF PAKTIA TRIBESMEN.  
AS WE REPORTED TWO WEEKS AGO, IN EARLY OCTOBER THE DRA REGIME PRESS GANGS IN KABUL AND KANDAHAR BEGAN TO SEIZE TRIBESMEN FROM THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE FOR MILITARY OR PUBLIC SERVICE, REVERSING A 50-YEAR POLICY OF EXEMPTING THESE MEN FROM CONSCRIPTION. THE DECISION PROVOKED A RARE ANTI-REGIME DEMONSTRATION IN THE HEART OF KABUL. ACCORDING TO AN EXCELLENT SOURCE, ABOUT ONE WEEK AFTER THE REGIME DECISION BECAME KNOWN, 2,000 TO 3,000 TRIBESMEN CONVENED AN UNAUTHORIZED "JIRGAH" (COUNCIL) ON THE JESHYM GROUNDS TO PROTEST THE CONSCRIPTION.

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12. THE DRA REGIME'S INITIAL REACTION WAS PREDICTABLE. ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE THREE-DAY JIRGAH, TROOPS SURROUNDED THE TRIBESMEN, AND WERE TOLD BY A HIGH RANKING MILITARY OFFICER THAT THE TRADITIONAL EXEMPTION OF THE TRIBES WAS BASED ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE TRIBESMEN WOULD PROTECT THE GOVERNMENT IN KABUL. SINCE THE TRIBES WERE NOT INTERDICTING REBELS AND REBEL SUPPLIES PASSING THROUGH THEIR HOMELAND, THE GOVERNMENT HAD LIFTED THE EXEMPTION. THE OFFICER THEN ORDERED THE ASSEMBLY TO DISPERSE. THE PAKTIA ELDERS RESPONDED BY RECALLING THE PROMISE OF FORMER KING NADIR SHAH AND STATED THAT, IN ANY CASE, DECISIONS ON PAKTIAN MILITARY SERVICE COULD ONLY BE TAKEN IN PAKTIA, NOT KABUL. THEY THEN WARNED THE OFFICER TO LEAVE OR BE "EATEN."

13. THIS RESPONSE INDUCED SECOND THOUGHTS BY THE KABUL AUTHORITIES. ON THE THIRD DAY THE OFFICER RETURNED AND ANNOUNCED THAT THE DECISION TO DRAFT MEN FROM PAKTIA WAS "TEMPORARILY RESCINDED" PENDING RECONSIDERATION. THE ASSEMBLY THEN DISPERSED PEACEFULLY, THOUGH BY SOME ACCOUNTS THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME ARRESTS DURING THE THREE DAYS. THE REGIME HAS APPARENTLY KEPT ITS WORD. MEN FROM PAKTIA WHO HAD BEEN DRAFTED AND FLOWN TO OTHER PARTS OF AFGHANISTAN HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO KABUL AND DEMOBILIZED. SOME ARE STILL OCCASIONALLY PICKED UP BY PRESS GANGS, BUT APPARENTLY CAN BE LIBERATED RELATIVELY EASILY BY RELATIVES.

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR  
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14. COMMENT. THE REGIME'S DECISION TO CONSCRIPT PAKTIAN TRIBE

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HEN LENDS CREDENCE TO VAGUE REPORTS HEARD AROUND KABUL FOR THE PAST  
THREE MONTHS OF INCREASED FIGHTING BETWEEN TRIBAL AND REGIME

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FORCES IN PAKTIA. THE REGIME'S DECISION TO RESCIND THE CONSCRIPTION ORDER IS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT ITS ABILITY TO EXERT CONTROL IN THE STRATEGIC SOUTHERN PROVINCE IS STRICTLY LIMITED.

15. ANTI-SOVIET DEMONSTRATION. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS CIRCULATING KABUL OF ANOTHER ILLEGAL DEMONSTRATION IN KABUL ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 19. THE CONSENSUS OF OUR SOURCES IS THAT SEVERAL HUNDRED WORKERS FROM A REGIME FACTORY (SOME SAY JANGALAK) MARCHED TOWARD THE JESHYN GROUNDS SHOUTING "DOWN WITH THE RUSSIANS" AND BABRAK YES, SOVIETS NO." THE MARCH IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN INTERCEPTED AND DISPERSED PEACEFULLY ALTHOUGH WATER FROM FIRE HOSES MAY HAVE BEEN USED TO BREAK UP THE DEMONSTRATION.

16. THE JESHYN GROUNDS "JIRGAH" AND THE MARCH BY KABUL FACTORY WORKERS ARE THE STRONGEST PUBLIC EXPRESSION IN MORE THAN A YEAR OF THE KABUL POPULATION'S CONTINUING HOSTILITY TO THE SOVIETS AND KARMAH REGIME. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE REGIME CHOSE TO TEMPORIZE WITH THE PROTESTORS RATHER THAN REPRESS THEM AS IT WOULD SURELY HAVE PREFERRED TO DO. A LOGICAL CONCLUSION TO BE DRAWN FROM THESE EVENTS IS THAT THE REGIME STILL FEARS THE OPPOSITION TO IT AND THAT ITS GRIP ON THE CITY MAY NOT BE TIGHTENING AS FAST AS SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE.

17. PAGHMAN. THE REGIME PRESENCE IN THE TOWN OF PAGHMAN REMAINS LIMITED TO THE MOLESWALI OFFICE AND NEARBY MILITARY POSTS. IN ADDITION TO REGIME ADMINISTRATORS AND AFGHAN TROOPS, THERE APPEAR TO BE SOME PARTY CADRES IN PAGHMAN AS MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES (PROTECT) BOAST THAT OVER TEN PARTY MEMBERS WERE KILLED LAST WEEK. WHILE THE HEAVY BOMBARDMENT THAT TOOK PLACE IN AND AROUND THE TOWN DURING MOST OF OCTOBER HAS CEASED, SELECTIVE BOMBING CONTINUES. ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 28 THE MAIN ROAD TO PAGHMAN WAS  
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CLOSED FOR SEVERAL HOURS, AND VILLAGES IN THE PAGHMAN VALLEY WERE BOMBED FOR 45 MINUTES BY TWO MIG'S AND SIX HELICOPTERS.

18. WE HAVE HEARD A NUMBER OF INCOMPLETE REPORTS OF ATTACKS ON MILITARY OUTPOSTS DURING THE LAST WEEK. EARLIER, ON OCTOBER 22, THE MUJAHIDEEN ATTACKED AND OVERRAN A MILITARY OUTPOST IN THE BEG TOOT VALLEY. REPORTEDLY, THE COMMANDANT OF THE POST HAD HELPED PLAN THE ATTACK WITH THE MUJAHIDEEN, AND DEFECTED TO THE RESISTANCE WITH TWENTY OF HIS MEN WHEN THE ENGAGEMENT BEGAN. THE REMAINING THIRTY SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND THE POST'S WEAPONRY WAS EITHER TAKEN OR RENDERED

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UNFIT FOR USE. THE NEXT DAY, VILLAGES IN THE BEG TOOT VALLEY WERE BOMBED IN RETALIATION.

19. SHOMALI. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, THE SHOMALI REGION JUST NORTH OF KADUL WAS, LIKE PAGHMAN, SUBJECTED TO INCREASED BOMBING DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO THE VILLAGES OF HAJI PAIK AND LAULU KHEL WERE BOMBED AND ROCKETED FOR SEVERAL DAYS, PRESUMABLY IN RETALIATION FOR HUJAHIDEEN ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA. WHILE THE BRUNT OF THE ATTACK CAME FROM HELICOPTERS, MIG'S WERE ALSO USED ON ONE OCCASION. ALL BUT THREE OR FOUR OF THE APPROXIMATELY FIFTY HOUSES IN EACH VILLAGE WERE SEVERLY DAMAGED AND SEVENTY TO EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE INHABITANTS HAVE LEFT THE VILLAGES FOR KADUL OR SOUGHT TEMPORARY SHELTER NEARBY. ALSO, IN A VILLAGE CALLED MASSERI A KILOMETER OR SO NORTH OF HAJI PAIK, ONE SOVIET SOLDIER WAS KILLED AND ANOTHER WOUNDED WHEN A SMALL GROUP OF HUJAHIDEEN CHANCED UPON FOUR SOVIET SOLDIERS ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. FINALLY, WHILE AIR ACTIVITY OVER THE SHOMALI GENERALLY SLACKED OFF LAST WEEK, THE VILLAGE OF GHAZA, NEAR KAREZ-E-MIR WAS BOMBED ON OCTOBER 28 AND 29.

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR,  
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20. DURING THE OCTOBER CAMPAIGN, MOST VILLAGES IN THE SHOMALI

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WERE SEARCHED SEVERAL TIMES FOR WEAPONS, MUJAHIDEEN AND CON-  
SCRIPTS. ON SOME OCCASIONS, SOVIET TROOPS MADE THE SEARCHES WITH-

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OUT THE USUAL ACCOMPANYING COTERIES OF REGIME SOLDIERS. THE SOVIETS ARE SAID TO HAVE LOOTED FOODSTUFFS AND VALUABLES FROM HOMES AND TO HAVE STOLEN TOMATOES, MELONS, AND GRAPES FROM THE VILLAGE FIELDS. REPORTEDLY, FEW MUJAHIDEEN WERE DISCOVERED, THOUGH SEVERAL WERE KILLED BY HAND GRENADES TOSSED INTO THE UNDERGROUND IRRIGATION TUNNELS WHERE THEY SOMETIMES TOOK REFUGE.

21. THE PANJSHER VALLEY..

WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM RECENT TRAVELLERS (PROTECT) AN ACCOUNT OF CONDITIONS IN THE PANJSHER VALLEY THAT DIFFERS SLIGHTLY FROM PREVIOUS REPORTS. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE NOT ALL VILLAGES IN THE VALLEY HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. MOST VILLAGES IN SIDE VALLEY WHICH CANNOT BE REACHED BY TANK HAVE BEEN BOMBED AND RENDERED UNINHABITABLE AS HAVE VILLAGES IN THE MAIN VALLEY BEYOND THE END OF THE MAIN ROAD WHICH EXTENDS APPROXIMATELY 65 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST FROM THE ENTRANCE NEAR THE TOWN OF GULBAHAR. HOWEVER, THOSE SETTLEMENTS WHICH LIE ALONG THE MAIN ROAD, WHILE SEVERELY DAMAGED, HAVE NOT BEEN FLATTENED ENTIRELY. ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCE, ALL TOWNS AND VILLAGES FROM ROKHA SOUTH HAVE BEEN EVACUATED BY THE CIVILIAN POPULACE, RECONSTRUCTION OF HABITATIONS FARTHER NORTH HAS BEGUN, BUT ONLY YOUNGER AND HEARTIER PANJSHERIS INTEND TO REMAIN FOR THE WINTER.

22. REGIME AND SOVIET TROOPS DISPOSITIONS IN AND AROUND THE VALLEY REMAIN ABOUT AS THEY HAVE BEEN SINCE THE END OF THE SIXTH OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE VALLEY EARLIER IN THE FALL. REGIME FORCES ARE GARRISONED AT ANAWA AND ROKHA, BUT, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF SOVIET ADVISORS, AS DISTINCT FROM REGULAR COMBAT UNITS, THERE ARE NO SOVIETS IN THE VALLEY. SEVERAL OF THE MAIN PASSES INTO THE VALLEY ARE CONTROLLED BY REGIME FORCES, LEAVING THE ANDARAB VALLEY TO THE NORTH AS THE MAJOR ROUTE FOR FOOD  
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AND SUPPLIES.

23. FOOD REMAINS SCARCE AND EXPENSIVE IN THE VALLEY, AND WE HAVE HEARD RECENT REPORTS OF AMBUSHING OF REGIME CONVOYS JUST NORTH OF THE SALANG PASS. THE RESISTANCE APPEARS TO HAVE ADVANCE INFORMATION AS TO THE CONTENTS OF TRUCKS AND HAS TARGETTED MAINLY THOSE CARRYING FOOD STUFFS. ON OCTOBER 16, FOR EXAMPLE, TWO TRUCKS CARRYING SUGAR WERE REPORTEDLY SEIZED BY MUJAHIDEEN BETWEEN THE SALANG PASS AND KHENJAN. ACCORDING TO SOURCES WHO OFTEN TRAVEL THE HIGHWAY TO THE NORTH, THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY TRUCKS DISABLED THAT SOVIET SOLDIERS SELL SALVAGED USED PARTS AT CHECKPOINTS AND

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